

Docket No. F-8993

Ser. No. 10/568,397

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 8-12 remain pending in this application. Claims 7 and 13 are cancelled herein. Claims 1-5 are previously cancelled. Claims 6 and 12 are amended herein to address matters of form unrelated to substantive patentability issues.

Applicant herein traverses and respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of the claims and objections cited in the above-referenced Office Action.

Claim 7 is objected to based upon a noted formality. Claim 7 is also rejected as obvious over Delgado et al. (US 6,240,765) in view of Inatani (US 5,454,248) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claim 7 is cancelled herein, rendering the objection and rejection moot.

Claims 6 and 8-12 are rejected as obvious over Delgado et al. (US 6,240,765) in view of Nordquist et al. (US 4,779,329) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The applicant herein respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 6 is revised to incorporate the subject matter of claim 13, which is held to recite patentable subject matter, and which was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claim 13 directly depends from claim 6, there being no intervening claims, the incorporation of all subject matter from claim 13 into claim 6 is equivalent to rewriting claim 13 in independent form, and claim 6 is now, therefore, in condition for allowance. Claim 13 is cancelled in favor of newly

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revised claim 6. The dependent claims 8-12 are also allowable based at least in part on the subject matter of amended claim 6.

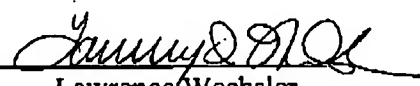
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims are not obvious in view of the cited references for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims 6 and 8-12 and their allowance are respectfully requested.

No fee is believed due. If there is any fee due the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP

By  by:
C. Bruce Hamburg
Reg. No. 22,389
Attorney for Applicant
and,

By 
Lawrence Wechsler
Reg. No. 36,049
Attorney for Applicant

Jordan and Hamburg LLP
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10168
(212) 986-2340